Donations

to hurricane

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long-term Mississippi Baptist

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Gulf Coast and throughout the

state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with

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Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-

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for hurricane relief. More infor-

mation on how to contribute can be obtained by calling

(601) 292-3206, or e-mailing

mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

relief effort

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Volunteers tackle seminary cleanup

By Keith Manuel Correspondent

VOL. 129

No. 45

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The first wave of volunteers in a major cleanup initiative at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) have arrived, aiming to boost the campus to an even greater place of prominence in the city.

The first project for the team of volunteers from Mississippi and Alabama was the removal of belongings left behind by students in their apartments and dorm rooms, said Bob Jackson, director of the seminary's MissionLab program.

Each week, a new wave of up to 50 volunteers will arrive on campus until the cleanup and renovation of the upper floors of campus housing is complete.

Gordon Perry, a volunteer from First Church, Huntsville, Ala., described his first reaction to seeing magnitude of destruction and need on the campus: "You're just kind of numb. You can't believe it. It is just not imaginable."

Several volunteers said the hardest part about their cleanup task is throwing away personal belongings left behind after students returned to campus October 5–9 to move out of their apartments and dorms. Some items left behind were ruined, while other items were left because students could not fit them into vehicles.

"Going in a woman's kitchen and looking at her recipe box and throwing away the things she saved — it's tough. It's still heartbreaking," one volunteer said.

"I just think of some little young'un

"I just think of some little young'un somewhere who doesn't have his toys," said Jon Daniels, pastor of Monticello Church, while another volunteer lamented, "Games, puzzles they made, and some of the artwork they put on the walls — it just gets to you after awhile." Paul Nelson, another First Church,

Huntsville volunteer, sees God guiding their work. "Let me tell you about a bed we were taking apart," he said. "It was a nice white-framed bed that wouldn't come out of the door and it took Allen wrenches to



FIRST STEP — Volunteers have begun the gritty process of cleaning up New Orleans Seminary after the school was inundated by the city's levee breaks following Hurricane Katrina. Among the first crew of volunteers were Jon Daniels (second from left), pastor of Monticello Church, Monticello; and Gordon Perry, Wallace Weaver, and Paul Nelson, all members of First Church, Huntsville, Al. (BP photo by Keith Manuel)

take it apart. None of the three of us [from the church] brought Allen wrenches."

In the apartment next door, Wallace Weaver opened a drawer and found two Allen wrenches. "Reckon they'll fit?" he asked.

"So I picked one of them up and it fit, so I started disassembling it," Nelson continued. 'Then I discovered it wouldn't fit one down on the bottom. The second Allen wrench was the right size... It's fairly clear to me that there's more working here than the three of us."

Virginia Kidd, a member of Haven Church in Madison, Al., thought of Proverbs 3:5–6 as a verse of encouragement to the students who are currently displaced.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths," he quoted. "Don't give up because he loves you."

Kidd responded to the call of the seminary for volunteers, saying to himself, "That's my seminary. I want to do all I can to get it back up.' I love this place."

Limited space is available each week for volunteers. Groups must schedule in advance with Bob and Linda Jackson at MissionLab. Telephone: (404) 226-9367. Email: bob@missionlab.com.

Editor's note: Manuel, a native of Ocean Springs, is a former pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, and currently serves as senior pastor of Calvary Church, New Orleans.

Miss. CP rises slightly

Despite the devastation of Hurricane Katrina on Mississippi Baptist churches in the southern half of the state, gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in October, showed a slight increase when compared to giving for the same period in 2004, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The October total of \$2,243,319 is one percent higher than the \$2,221,772 given in October 2004, and eight percent lower than the \$2,437,766 given in September 2005. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$26,546,450, which is 3.5% above last year's giving during the same period and 1.7% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2005 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2004 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2005. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf on November 4 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

SBC CP down for month

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for October were \$15,886,643, 3.7%, or \$618,229, below the \$16,504,872 given in September, and eight percent, or \$1,376,530, below the \$17,263,173 received in October 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Designated giving in October 2005 reached \$3,552,248, or \$350,811 (10.1%) more than October 2004. When the SBC fiscal year ended in September, the 2004-05 contributions exceeded the approved budget by \$12,496,729, and because of budget actions taken in September, the extra amount will be redirected to meet extraordinary hurricane recovery needs of Southern Baptists. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 2005-06 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget as approved by messengers to the 2005 SBC annual meeting in Nashville.



House Bill 45: filling gamblers' gift list

7th the Mississippi Legislature's passage of House Bill 45 and Governor Haley Barbour's signaaffirming the measure Mississippians were led to believe that legalized gambling along the Gulf Coast would be limited to an inland expansion of 800 feet. Mississippians were also led to believe that the 800-feet limit was all that the tough negotiators in the Legislature would allow the gamblers, and that taking such a hard line would keep

casinos on a tight leash.

Mississippians were of course hoodwinked, this time by a large group of craven legislators and a governor bent on granting virtually every item on the gamblers' gift list. Following are just a couple of examples.

> When is 800 feet not 800 feet?

House Bill 45 indeed limits inland casino expansion to 800 feet - but pro-gambling politicians have a much different way of counting 800 feet. House Bill 45 excludes from the 800-feet count any easements and rights of way for public streets and highways.

That means the gamblers, as they march northward, can exclude from their 800-feet count all of Highway 90 and all the highway's rights of way and easements. House Bill 45 also excludes easements and rights of way for public streets, so the gamblers can just jump over city streets that are in their way without counting the footage.

The result, of course, is that the gamblers can site their inland casinos well more than

Pass Christian y 90 Gambling Note: Map not drawn to sca

800 literal feet. House Bill 45 also requires that only the gambling hall has to be within the Legislature's liberal 800-feet count. Any other developments, such as hotels, golf courses, water parks, and other casinoowned attractions, can stretch as far beyond the 800-feet limit as necessary to funnel the most people into the gambling hall.

I-10, here we come!

House Bill 45 stipulates that the gamblers can move inland 800 feet or to the southern boundary of Highway 90, "whichever is greater." However, the loopholes inserted into the bill are big enough to drive a casino through. One of the many generous gifts to the gambling industry included in the bill names the shorelines of the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay, and Pascagoula Bay, as boundaries from which the casinos can begin counting off their 800 feet.

Why is that such an important stipulation? A quick check of the map above, or any other map of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, reveals that this simple little leg-

islative plum, when combined with the 800-feet limit (by legislators' counting, that is) will place casinos closer to Interstate 10 than the gamblers ever dreamed possible. Remember, only the gambling halls have to be within 800 feet, not the amenities and amusements owned by the casinos.

Space limitations don't permit a review of the many other gamblerfriendly provisions of House Bill 45, including an exemption from criminal prosecution for those caught wagering on dog fights.

The entire bill can be downloaded by oing to www.ls.state.ms.us, clicking on Bill Status, and following the screens to House Bill 45 at All Measures under Fifth

Extraordinary Session.

If your legislator voted for House Bill 45, ask him/her why they worked so hard to fill the gamblers' gift list. Every legislator had access to House Bill 45 before they voted on it. They knew about the slick 800-feet trick and they knew about the sweetheart deal with the shorelines of the three bays and the Mississippi Sound.

If any one of the pro-gambling legislators professes not to have known what was in the bill, that means he/she did not read the bill before voting on it. If they admit to reading the bill, that means they understood they were giving away south Mississippi to the gamblers.

The same goes for Governor Barbour, who signed House Bill 45 into law as soon as he could arrange the photo opportunity.

Did our leaders know what was in House Bill 45, or not? Either way, the people of Mississippi came out the big losers.

William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to: The **BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,** Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, lackson, MS 39205-0530.

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VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 45 (ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

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denotes member of a Mississippi Baptist church Simpson Jr., James' **House of Representatives** Pass Christian Smith, Clayton' Brandon YEA-60 (for land-based gambling) Smith, Ferr Carthage District Snowden, Greg' Meridian Bailey, Willie Staples, Gary Laurel Straughter, Rufus Belzoni Baker, Mark Brandon Thomas, Sara Indianola Upshaw, Jessica Diamondhead Bentz, Leonard Watson, Percy Hattiesburg Blackmon Jr., Edv Canton Whittington, May Schlate Broomfield, Billy Moss Point Brown, Cecil Woods, Tommy Jackson Young Sr., Charles Tunica Burnett, Clara Calhoun, Credel Jackson Carlton, Virginia Columbia 100 Clark, Bryant

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Gautier

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Coleman, Linda

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Dedeaux, Dirk

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Fredericks, France

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Martinson, Rita

Mayhall Jr., W.T.

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Moak, Bobby

Moore, John

Myers, David

Norquist, David

Peranich, Diane

Read, John*

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Robinson Jr., Walt

Patterson, Randal

Holloway Sr., Gregory

Denny, Bill

Davis, Lee Jarre

Newspaper seeks to boost students' morale

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A photograph of a gate snapped in two by hurricaneforce winds tells the story: William Carey College's three campuses in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans will never again be the same.

All three campuses received major damage, and all students, faculty, and administrators reeled from personal loss. Within two days of returning to the windstruck Hattiesburg campus, however, the student journalism staff rallied.

Led by Editor Heather Clark, the staff decided The Cobbler needed to remind the college community of the hope in Jesus Christ that professors often talk about in class. The student journalists started planning a Katrina issue as their first issue of this year's monthly student newspaper.

"We knew we couldn't have

any negativity in it at all," Clark, a junior, said. "We looked at all the angles and found something positive in each one of them."

Her editorial expanded on that thought. "In one single day, our lives went from normal to devastating," Clark wrote. "It used to be that if there was a hurricane coming, we would board up a few windows, get a few groceries and wait out the storm.

"Now if there is mention of a storm, people are packing their bags, filling up on gas and frantically leaving their home in fear of their safety. Will we ever get back to the way we were before Katrina? I really don't think so.

"This paper is dedicated to the school we knew and the devastation left behind after Katrina pushed her way across the state. The buildings and landscape we love have been damaged and even destroyed, but the love we have for our school is still alive and stronger than ever."

Katrina clobbered a four-year construction project on the college's Hattiesburg campus, leaving trees down all over campus, windows blown out and the color stripped off new bricks. At the beachfront Gulfport campus, an entire building including the foundation apparently was sucked into the sea. The New Orleans campus, housed at New Orleans Seminary, is out of commission for at least this semester.

"In contrast to what we were seeing on television, even the local news channels, we wanted students to be able to read not stories of complete destruction but a story of hope," photojournalist Lacey Walters said.

"This needed to be done to communicate to the students that everything would be OK," Clark said. "God is going to continue to strengthen students who have lost everything."

One sorrowful loss: Newspaper adviser Dana Coleman lost a great-uncle. His body was found five days later floating in New Orleans.

NOVEMBER 17, 2005 -



BATTERED CAMPUSES — The gate that once stood as a symbol of William Carey College in Hattiesburg lies unhinged and broken by Katrina's fierce winds as the monster storm moved through south Mississippi. All three of the Baptist-affiliated school's campuses were severely affected by Katrina. (BP photo courtesy of Lacey Walters)

"Everybody lost someone, something," Clark said. "That's why our goal was to make this issue as positive as it could be, to communicate that we were going to be okay and we were going to retain our academic excellence."

William Carey College is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. William Carey College was started in 1906 by the Mississippi Baptist Convention as Mississippi Woman's College; its name changed in 1954.

The first issue of the 50th volume of The Cobbler came out October 13, just three weeks after the Hattiesburg campus reopened. Each article, photo, and editorial opinion related to the hurricane. While written in standard journalistic "just the facts" style, the message of hope came through.

hope came through.

"I was very impressed to see how committed these student journalists were to telling a positive story of the college," adviser Coleman said. "Their unfailing faith that everything would be okay is a real testament to the environment of William Carey College."

The top-of-the-fold page one article provided a synopsis of Hurricane Katrina's impact: "... The power of Katrina had truly left victims powerless," staff writer Mary Katherine Easley wrote.

"Despite the severity of the damage, residents came together one by one to help each other," Easley continued later in the article. "...Some residents hung American flags to show their perseverance... Neighbors got to know neighbors and strangers became friends."

Mitchell Smith, senior photographer/writer, wrote a page one article after interviewing college President Larry Kennedy. Before the storm, enrollment at the three campuses had reached a record 3,025 students; since the storm it has dropped to 2,330, Smith wrote.

Plans are being made to sell the coast property and move the Gulfport campus inland, closer to Interstate 10, Kennedy said.

Another page one headline: "Students help the hurting." On page two, in addition to Katrina-related news briefs and jumps from page one: "Local church leaders help bring comfort after Katrina."

Page three included a revised academic calendar; articles on how Katrina aid would benefit college students; revisions to plans for mission trips; and a call to prayer. The center spread, with "Katrina storms through Carey" as its headline, showed interior and exterior Katrina," Hedden as the column. "Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the propose of the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column. Through were able to show because circumstant us wet, poor, hurt and would take much in the column.

devastation — a science lab, the Gulfport student center, baseball field lights, and more.

Even the sports page referred to Katrina. Resumption of athletic competition "was, to me, a testament to the resilience and determination of a proud culture who would stop at nothing to prove to everyone watching that Nature could do her worst, and the core of that culture could not and would not be shaken," sports editor Charlie Hedden wrote.

"Though it was not with food, water, or clothing, sports was an equally important defiance to Katrina," Hedden added later in the column. "Through sports we were able to show that just because circumstances had left us wet, poor, hurt and crushed, it would take much more than a hurricane to defeat the American people, their spirit, their passions and their pastimes."

BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

NOVEMBER 17, 2005 Vol. 129 No. 45

Looking back

10 years ago

One of Southern Baptists' most loved and best known figures, Herschel H. Hobbs, dies in an Oklahoma City hospital. Hobbs was 88.

20 years ago

Hurricane Kate narrowly misses the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but the state's Baptist disaster relief unit is dispatched to answer emergency feeding requirements in the Florida panhandle where 100,000 homes were affected by the storm.

50 years ago

Kittiwake Assembly on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is dedicated to the work of Mississippi Baptists in a service just prior to the opening of the Schools of Missions clinic, the first conference at the facility.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.





LESSONS FROM THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

On the calendar the arrival of autumnal equinox is September 23 are thereabouts, but it doesn't happen that way. I like fall, but I must confess it is not my favorite season of the year. I guess if I would rank the seasons, it would probably come in fourth. One thing that I do not like about fall is the fact that it is so slow in arriving. Actually, you hardly even know when fall gets here. You think it is here, but it is not. What happens is that somewhere around the end of September there will be a cool night and the temper-atures will drop down to about 58 to 60 degrees. You get up the next morning and you think, "Boy, this is great! Fall is in the air." The next day you find out the temperature is back up to 98 or 99 degrees and you think, "Where did autumn go?" An argument could be made that autumn is not even a season of the year but just a brief transitional period that holds summer and winter together. So while fall is suppose to be on its way, along about the middle of October you begin to hear people complaining that it is never going to get cooler.

The one other major thing that I do not particularly care about autumn is the fact that it is when the time changes. That was not blamed on the season of the year but on the government. Here is the thing. Days are getting shorter in the fall and our government shortens them even more. There is a lot that I do not understand about



Directions 1

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

how the government's mind works, but the fact that they would take away Daylight Savings time at the time of the year when you need the hour the most somehow does not make sense to me. Now permit me to kick all of that negative aside and just tell you that there are some wonderful things to be learned from the fall of life.

One lesson that autumn teaches us is that life is cyclical. You can mark it down that at whatever age or stage you are at in life there will be a new cycle on the way and no matter what the circumstances are they are going to change. Life is put together that way, and we have the option of sitting over in the corner and complaining about it or we can watch it change and celebrate. Some folks never are where they are. Well, let me state it another way. Some people are always stuck where they ain't. You have seen them, you know them, and you may be one of them. They are always wishing that they were in some other cycle. They spend time wishing that they were older only to get there and spend time wishing they were younger. They wish they had another job only to get

there and wish they were back in their old job. No doubt all of us have experienced that at some time. I am certain that I have quoted over a thousand times to someone else or even to myself a statement that I heard many years ago. It says, "I wish I was where I was when I was wishing to be where I am now." Autumn reminds us that life is cyclical.

The second lesson that the fall of the year teaches us is that death can be beautiful. Over the years I have known people who pack up and head off somewhere west or north into the mountains to see the changing of the leaves. The awesome display of God's paintbrush is breathtaking. The panorama of color and contrast is one of fall's great contributions to all of us. It is a good thing. We all enjoy it, but sometimes we forget that it is all made possible because the leaves are dying. Rarely does death ever get any good press, but come fall of the year almost without even recognizing what is taking place we praise God for the beauty of it.

Having been a pastor most of my life it seemed like such a rare thing through the years for death to be welcomed and for

the people affected to see the beauty in it. We despise death most of the time. We rail against its presence, try to pray it off the premises, and rarely see any marks of beauty when it comes. Along comes autumn and we can hardly wait and then we celebrate the beauty of leaves that are dying. I too have had the privilege of seeing the beauty that only God can bring at death. I have seen great faithful, loving saints come to the conclusion of life not just taking a last gasp but as though they were about to take the first step into eternity's great parade.

One other lesson that we can learn from autumn is that this phase in life is but the prelude to even grander things to come. Soon all of the leaves will be about the same tan and brown color, then they will fall, and the trees will look bare and dead. But when that time comes, just remember that the stage is now set for the glorious appearing of new life of buds, flowers, fresh tender leaves, and new extended growth. God made it that way both in nature and in our walk with Him. It seems as though Paul could hardly contain himself as he wrote about death. He came to that part of the experience that there is more to come, and it is going to be grand and glorious. In I Corinthians 15 he said it this way, "But thanks be to God that giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ."

God bless you as you enjoy

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STAFF CHANGES



Cox

Jeff Cox, a junior at Delta State University, has been called as youth minister to Calvary Chapel, Parchman.

Graceland Church, Vancleave, has called Jimmy Willey as pastor.

Charles Anthony Yarborough has retired from Mt. Pleasant Church, Lincoln County, and is

available for pulpit supply, interim, and revivals. He can be reached at (601) 276-7234, 810-7194, or 320-1870.

Keith Ramage has been called to pastor Beulah Church, Newton County. He is a native of Houston and a graduate of William Carey College. Ramage and his wife Belinda have three daughters.



Ramage

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Yalobusha Association: One-night revival, Bethel Church, Water Valley, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., and Nov. 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Laramie Minga, music on Sunday. Border Springs Church, Caledonia: Homecoming, Nov. 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and afternoon singing; Mike Fondren, Sr., speaker; Glen Edmonds, pastor. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

November 17, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus January 23-24, 2006

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION - "EMPOWERING GOD'S PEOPLE"

1:30 - 1:45Praise and Worship - R.L. & Beth Sigrest

1:45 - 2:00Call to Prayer - Ken Lyle

2:00 - 2:20The Value of Revival in Evangelism - Bill Britt

2:20 - 2:30Music - R.L. & Beth Sigrest

2:30 - 3:00Mississippi Preaching - Gene Douglas

3:00 - 3:30Fellowship Break

Praise and Worship - R.L. & Beth Sigrest 3:30 - 3:45

3:45 - 4:30Hearing God's Word - Verne Charette

5:00 - 6:30 **Evangelism Dinner** Keynote Speaker - Jim Futral

MONDAY EVENING SESSION - "BAPTIZING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD"

6:30 - 6:45Praise and Worship - Slater Murphy

6:45 - 7:00Call To Prayer - Ken Lyle

The Value of Church Planting in Evangelism 7:00 - 7:20Wayne Marshall

7:20 - 7:30Music - Slater Murphy

Gospel Preaching - Gray Allison 7:30 - 8:00

Praise and Worship - Slater Murphy 8:00 - 8:15

8:15 - 9:00 Everyone Can - Bobby Welch

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION - "EXPANDING GOD'S KINGDOM"

Praise and Worship - Graham Smith 8:30 - 8:45

Call To Prayer - Ken Lyle 8:45 - 9:00

The Value of Sunday School in Evangelism 9:00 - 9:30Chuck Register

9:30 - 9:45Fellowship Break

9:45 - 10:45 Sunday School Growth Conferences

10:45 - 11:00 Fellowship Break

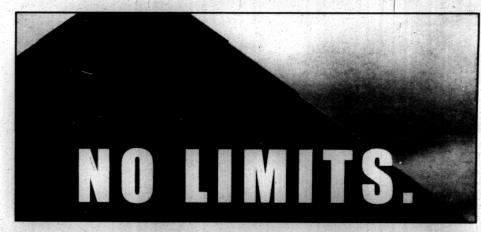
11:00 - 11:15 Praise and Worship - Graham Smith

11:15 - 11:45 Challenge To Grow - Paul Powell

Noon

Benediction

For info: Laura Marler, 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3231, lmarler@mbcb.org



Set your family on the right course!

Are you interested in:

A Fulfilling Marriage? True Success and Significance? More Family Time?

Meaningful Communication? Equipping Kids to Choose the Best?

MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

Feb. 17-18, 2006 Ridgecrest BC, Madison cost: \$25

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JERRY PIPES Author of "Family to Family" and "Building a Successful Family"

Breakout Sessions on the Four Seasons of Marriage **Led by Professional Family Counselors**



Ron Mumbower Counseling/Congregational Care Pastor FBC, Jackson

Tate Cockrell

Associate Pastor

Family Ministry

Broadmoor BC, Madison



Dwight Faulkenbery Director **Pathway Ministries** Tupelo



Kay Faulkenbery **Pathway Ministries** Tupelo



Perry Sanderford Director, Crossroads Christian Marriage/Family Counseling, Pearl

Contact Glenn in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department: gshows@mbcb.org or 1-800-748-1651

Deacon Ministry Emphasis Week 2006 January 8-14, 2006



Deacon Ministry Emphasis

is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose Of Deacon Emphasis Is To:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
 - Develop skills for ministry

When and How

May be conducted at any time during the year, however, January 8-14 is designated by the MBCB as the week to emphasize deacon ministry.

To participate, the deacons would choose at least two actions and perform them during a specified time.

A certificate of recognition will be presented to each deacon body that participates.

Suggested Activities . . .

- Conduct a deacon's retreat or training event
- Enter the Deacon Family Ministry Plan
- Conduct Pastor/Staff Appreciation Day
- Sponsor a special ministry project
- Conduct prayer/planning retreat with church leaders
- Sponsor a mission trip or tour
- Enter Deacon/Pastor Covenant to work together as partners in ministry
- Plan and conduct worship service
- Conduct activities to strengthen church fellowship
- View and study video tapes
- Conduct efforts to reclaim inactive church members
- Plus many more ...

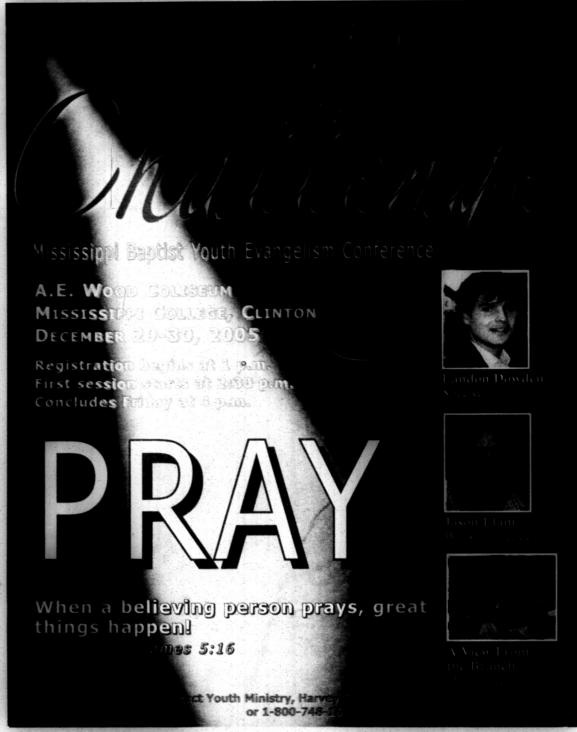
For other projects and information, contact:

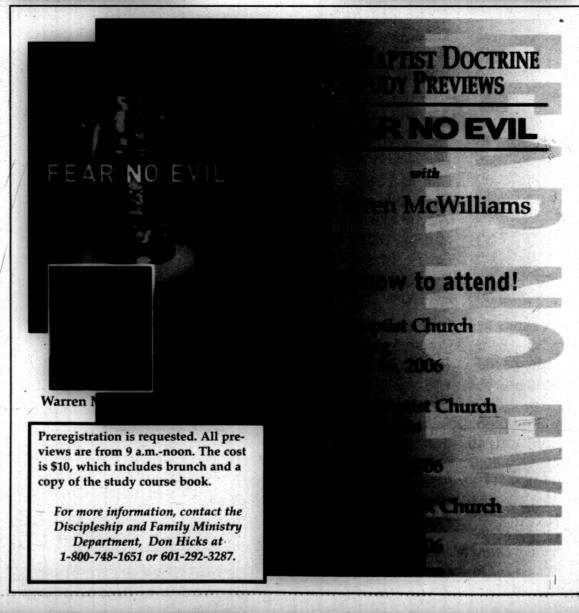
Pastor/Leadership Development

*Keith Gordon, consultant

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

601-968-3800, extension 307, or 1-800-748-1651





2006 State Evangelism Conference January 23-24, 2006 Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus

"Pray Over Columbus" (for everyone) 9 a.m. • January 23

The MBCB Women's Visionary Team, and the wMu directors and women's ministry leaders of Area 2 and Area 4 invite everyone to participate in this special prayer effort before the State Evangelism Conference begins.

Ministers' Spouses Lunch (just for the ladies)
"No One Can Fill Your Shoes ... Walking Worthy of HIS Calling"

Ephesians 4:1-3

11:30 a.m. • January 23

Ladies, be sure to bring your pastor's wife to this lunch planned especially for them. Special guests will be Page Hughes, keynote speaker, and Janet Rayford, music.





Janet Rayford Crestwood New Life BC, Jackson

For more info: Kathy Burns, wMu, 601-292-3324, 1-800-748-1651, kburns@mbcb.org

THE SUIT PROJECT

TO PASTORS IN THE NORTHWEST BAPTIST CONVENTION (OREGON AND WASHINGTON)

For 41 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending suits to pastors in new work areas.

Each suit costs \$130. Take it on as a group project!

Make checks out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate it to THE SUIT PROJECT.

If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate to the pastor's wife!

Send checks to: Men's Ministry Department PO Box 530 Jackson MS 39205-0530

CPAF 2006

Special Emphasis:

CLOWNING



with special guest Chagy the Clown

conferences

- Drama
- Clowning
- Puppets
- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry
- Media
- Missions

For more info:
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
Rene' Edwards 601-292-3283
1-800-748-1651
redwards@mbcb.org

schedule

Friday, February 24

5:45 p.m.	Registration
6:30	Welcome & Introduction
	(in the auditorium)
7:00	Session 1
8:15	Session 2
9:25	Creative Worship

Saturday, February 25

8:00 a.m.	Late Registration
8:15	Open Performance
8:45	Session 3
10:00	Break, Shopping
10:45	Session 4
12:00 Lunch	, Open Performance,
	Shopping
2:00 p.m.	Session 5
3:15	Creative Worship
4:15	Dismiss







Pray this day for ...

November 18-December 8, 2005

A.J. Gordon once said. "You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed." If only we would believe this!

THE KNEELING CHRISTIAN by an Unknown Christian

News sources report that up to 2 million Cambodians may face serious food shortages next year, as the country has reportedly suffered its worst drought in 51 years. Even though parts of the country are experiencing flooding, other areas have been experiencing drought since 2004. Please pray that in 2006, Cambodia will not have to face such a problem.

Dr. S lives and works in Togane, Japan. Praise the Lord for the recent salvation of Dr. 5, who had already been gathering non-christians at his dinic to study the Bible. On Sunday, Ap. 28, Dr. S called Mrs. I to the that he was ready to follow Christ in baptism. Pay for this doctor to be a bold witness, become a multiplifting disciple, and start a reproducing church.

For: (I) International Missions Copphasis, 4th – 11th (WMU Briphasis); (2) The Mandinka Team of West Africa writes: "Praise God with us that despite religious opposition, the radio station manager continues to air the adio broadcasts of chronological Bible stories. Pray that he will stand firm to allow these broadcasts to continue every Wednesday night."

Rejoice with N of India's Jharkhand state. N asked the staff and listeners of a Christian radio program to pray for the salvation of her husband and son. The Lord answered their prayers and they became Christians. Please pray that N's husband and son would grow in their walk with the Lord. Pray for other Indian wives who also long to see their spouses and children saved.

Serving chai (hot tea) is a measure of hospitality in) Pakistan. Please join a worker as she asks the Lord to help her offer some kind of witness—maybe a story, prayer or the JESUS film—with each cup of tea she serves to female Pakistani friends who follow Islam.

The Zari people are a cluster of three people groups: the Zari, Zakshi and Boto. They live in a remote region of Bauchi State in Nigeria. Pray for a Nigerian Baptist strategy coordinator, Pastor C, who has felt led to give up his pastorate and support himself with his work as a school teacher so that he can go and share the Good News in this very resistant area.

Lora Lee Smith, Cleveland. Ohio, is community impact director for Cleveland Hope: Building Bridges of Love. The school system has laid off 2,100 teachers in the last 14 months, closed 30 schools, and has a 4th grade proficiency score of 45 percent. Pray as Lora meets with key people in developing an adopt-a-school program and bringing communities together.

Ted and Tammy Keller, Columbia, SC serve as fulltime missionaries ministering at a mobile chapel for truckers. Pray for 300-400 truck drivers that pass through each month and for volunteers to minister in the chapel at the travel plaza.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 9 a.m.; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (3) Please pray today for President Samuel Schmid of Switzerland (central Europe). Combat fatigue is not something the average missionary experiences on a regular basis, but the potential certainly exists in Bangladesh. Please pray that God would strengthen international and national workers serving among the Bihari Muslims of Bangladesh. Pray that the Word of the Lord would encourage them daily.

Kids are our future leaders, and missions education is a vital part of their preparation! AMIGUA (the Guatemala Missionary Association) soonsored a Kids' Congress on October 1 to educate, encourage and challenge children to be involved in reaching the world for Christ. Pray that God will use the information shared at this conference to have a lasting impact in the lives of these children and their leaders.

For:(1) Baptist Building STAFF AT HOME DAYS, 7th - 9th; (2) Randy Shaddox is a volunteer chaplain with the Tulsa Police Department and a part-time chaplain with American Hospice. Pray for good time management, and for wisdom to deal with patients who are dying, and ability to relate to families who have lost loved ones. "Lord, on this Thanksgiving Day, I accept Your gift of comfort with tremendous gratitude." Ron Brown in Open Windows on November 24th. Today think about several things you want to thank God for and give God thanks for them.

The Jola-Fogny Team of Senegal and the Gambia covets your ongoing intercession for dentists and eye doctors to respond to God's call to serve among the Jola-Fogny in January and February 2006 as part of a volunteer dental/eye team. They are praising God that someone has already responded to the need for a dental team in January and February 2007.

A mission dream come true is when nationals conduct their own training seminar to teach local pastors and church members to use indigenous methods to plant multiplying churches in un bached areas of their country. That very event happened on Oct. 9-16 on Luzon of the Philippines. Pray that pastors will use the concepts they learned to share the gospel boldly.

Daniel Rupp, Albuquerque is church extension director with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. Pray that God will send an Hispanic church planter and that a healthy new church will win many for Christ.

In August, we joined a new Central Asian Muslim-background believer in his prayer asking God to work mightily in his city by calling 50 new believers to Himself every month. Give thanks that God is answering those prayers. This believer's wife, who used to hide her husband's Bible from him, has started coming

to church along with their son

Pray for new ISC workers James and Rhonda Renot, who recently arrived in Kinshasa to help start new churches. Pray that God will open their ears and their minds to learn Lingala. Pray that they will adjust quickly to living and working in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo and that God will give them a heart for the people.

Please join us today in praying for the Emerillion and Palikur tribes in French Guianato to waken each morning to hear those words that sustain the weary. Intercede that the teams working there might find the best strategy to present the gospel to those remote tribes.

For most people in Bulgaria, to be Bulgarian is to be Orthodox. They see their country as a Christian nation and over 85 percent of the population claims to be Orthodox. Since most see themselves as part of a "Christian nation," they don't understand the need for a personal relationship with God. Pray that they will not trust in a national identity but in the blood of Christ for personal salvation.

John and Jenni Falson are church planting missionaries to the Hispanic population in Raleigh, N.C. Pray for Hispanic Christians to go out into the harvest fields of the more than 200,000 Latinos in Raleigh and surrounding areas.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



2006 Christian Education Clinics

Highland BC, Meridian Feb. 4 Ridgecrest BC, Madison March 4

- · Advanced registration required
- Cost \$16 per conference
- Participation earns 5 hours of approved staff development credit.
- On site registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
- Each clinic is from 8 a.m. 1:15 p.m.

For more info, contact Don Hicks, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Phone: 601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651

E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

1/21/97

MR. CALEB E. HOLYFIELD Parents: Michael & Patricia Church Planting Central & Eastern Europe

1/5/93 MISS MELEAH D. PEACOCK Parents: Kevin & Brenda Theological Education Middle America

1/26/89 MISS HANNAH M. RAY Parents: Michael & Linda Strategy Central & Eastern Europe

1/25/89 MISS STEPHANIE J. YOUNG Parents: Steven & Laura Student Evangelism Middle America Encourage a MK with a birthday card!

PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name MBCB Stewardship Dept. PO Box 530 Jackson MS 39205



JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Homecoming Celebration, Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven



2. Deacon Ordination, Oakdale Church, Brandon



3. Mission Trip to Wales, Ebenezer Church, Abertillery, Wales



4. GAs, First Church, Batesville

- 1. Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven, celebrated its 100th anniversary, with approximately 300 people in attendance. Former pastors Doug Broome and Ronny Robinson spoke, with Frank Steidle leading music.
- 2. Oakdale Church, Brandon, ordained Clay Savell and Chris Downey as deacons. Shown are Savell, April Savell, pastor Rick Henson, Beth Downey, and Downey.
- 3. During a mission trip to Ebenezer Church, Abertillery, Wales, several Americans met mayor Don Wilcox of the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent. Shown, from left, are Keith Dykes, member of Ebenezer; Jo Smith, youth minister, Ebenezer; Jennifer Gale, Huntsville, Ala.; Nat Andrews, Jasper, Ga.; Mary Beth Andrews, Lubbock, Tex.; Bill Barrett, First Church, Lexington; and Keith Fantham, pastor, Ebenezer Church. Seated are Mayoress Moira Wilcox and Wilcox.
- 4. The sixth grade GAs of First Church, Batesville, have been saving their spare change for the children of Brazil. Shown, back, are Molly Hendren, Dakota Holland, and Sarah Knight; center, Emily Hopper.
- Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, ordained Doug Perry as deacon Oct.
 Shown are Perry, Sharon Perry, and Joe Able.
- Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing Nov. 19, 6 p.m., featuring The House Family.
- 7. Steele Church, Forest, will host a Thanksgiving service Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Danny Lanier, speaker, followed by a soup supper. Reggie Williams, pastor.
- 8. First Church, Terry, surpassed its goal of \$2,000 for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering by giving a total of \$2,479.
- First Church, Leaksville, will have a centennial celebration Nov. 19, 6 p.m., and Nov. 20, 10 a.m. Saturday, Wesley Ellis, speaker, followed by a birthday party, and Sunday, with speaker Michael Perry, followed by dinner on the grounds.
- Highland Church, Meridian, will host their 21st annual singing Christmas tree Dec. 1–4. Thurs.–Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat.–Sun., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; tickets can be reserved at the church office.



5. Deacon Ordination, Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove



11. Senior Adults Honored, First Church, Potts Camp

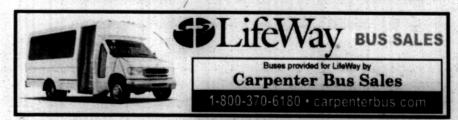


BAPTISTS

- 11. First Church, Potts Camp, honored its senior adults with a luncheon and fellowship. Kay Bain of The Morning Show was guest speaker/singer. Shown are Andy Roe and Bain.
- 12. The children of **Parkway Church**, **Kosciusko**, are shown enjoying a day of fun and fellowship at Central Hills.



12. Children Visit Central Hills, Parkway Church, Kosciusko



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004 copyrighted 2005

DUSWSM MRO RSA MRHM WHSDON XODKD PWCA MRO NOHN NTOZZ SB ECK, RO MRHM WHSDON KU **JRWSDM PWCA MRO** NOHN **DRHZZ HZDC** VKSJYOB ECKW ACWMHZ **ICNSOD** IE **RSD DUSWSM MRHM** NTOZ-ZOMR SB ECK.

> WCAHBD OSQRM: **OZOLOB**

Clue: A = M

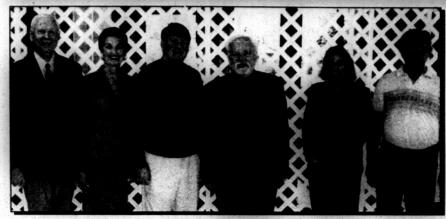
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Eleven: Six.

MS Positions

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH IN JACKSON is taking applications for a minister of music, who is interested in teaching adults and children enjoyment of church music as well as wonderful songs. Faith is located on the corner of Northside and Manhattan in North Jackson. For more information, call Sammy Nicholson at (601) 368-2983. SPRINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for the position of parttime minister of music and youth. Please submit resume to: Personnel Committee, c/o Springdale Baptist Church, 28314

Attala Hwy. 19, West, MS 39192. MINISTER OF YOUTH: GOSS BAPTIST CHURCH, near Columbia, Miss., is seeking part-time/bi-vocational minister of youth. Please send resumes to Goss Baptist Church, attn: Donovan McComb at 718 Broad Street, Columbia, MS 39429 or contact him at (601) 444-0000 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PICAYUNE, MISS., is seeking a full-time children's minister. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 477, Picayune, MS 39466, attn: personnel committee.

College News



1. Retirees Honored, WCC

1. William Carey College hon-

ored three faculty and staff

members who recently retired with a combined 54

years of service to WCC's

Gulfport campus at a recep-

tion on the Hattiesburg cam-

pus. Maintenance supervisor Robert Stutz was honored for 31 years of service; Glenn

Swetman, professor of lan-guage and literature was

honored for 14 years of ser-

vice; and professor of religion, history, and philoso-

phy Bill Baker was honored

for nine years of service.

Shown are Baker and his

wife; Larry Kennedy; Glenn

Swetman and daughter Margot; and Stutz.

Chorale and the Hatties-

burg Civic Chorus will pre-

sent a Messiah sing along concert Nov. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. The singers will present the

Hallelujah as well as other selections. The public is invited to participate. No

prior rehearsal is required. Scores are available for pur-

chase at Wolfe Gang Music

The William Carey College

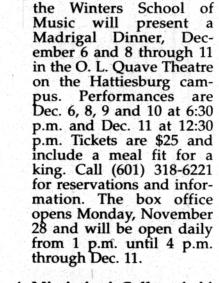
Theatre Department and

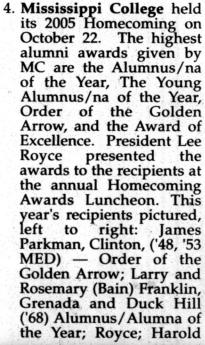
on Hardy Street.

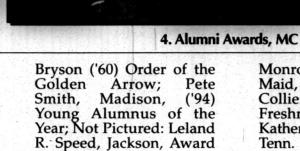
of

Christmas portion Handel's Messiah

2. The William Carey College







of Excellence.

5. Mississippi College presented the Homecoming Court during half-time at the Choctaws homecoming game Oct. 22. Students elected to the Homecoming court include Homecoming Queen, Lindsey Meadows Smith, Jackson; Maid of Honor, Carrie Elizabeth Jones, Meridian; Senior Maid, Cameron Ruth Vaughan, Jackson; Junior Maid, Mandi Sheree Huff,

Monroe, La.; Sophomore Maid, Jessica Lynn Todd, Collierville, Tenn.; and Freshman Maid, Laura Katherine Dillard, Bartlett,

6. The annual Lighting of the Quad event at MC is scheduled for 6:30 pm on November 29, on the Quad in the middle of campus. The community is invited to join MC students for the free event including hot chocolate and a brief program including Christmas carols, reading of the Christmas story, and musical performances by BSU singing groups. For more information, call the BSU office at (601)925-3238.



5. Homecoming Court, MC

CLASSIFIED ADS

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covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free EXPENSIVE? Quality health coverage at estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

KAWAI GRAND PIANO, KG-2D, Satin Walnut Approx. 6', with bench. One owner. Moving to smaller home. Near Hutton Insurance, we can help! West Point, MS. \$6,500. (662) 494-4755.

INSURANCE for the self employed. Call Margarita Stanford on a 14-day cruise of CATION, minimum of two years Education completed, age 45-55. Please (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Scandinavia and St. Petersburg on Star experience in full-time children's min-send applications to First Baptist Church, Princess, May 23-June 5, 2006. Call (601) istry and bachelor's degree required. P.O. Box 1070, Lecompte, LA 71346. 924-1593 for a free brochure.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. We offer several low cost plans to Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401. Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, choose from. E. F. Hutton Insurance. Call BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, PREVOST 46 PASSENGER MOTOR-

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN today and receive our free information call after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, restroom, VCR, and DVD, TV monitor OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl sid-letter on the new prescription plans now (662) 746-6702. ing, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio available to qualified seniors. E.F. Hutton Insurance toll free (877) 232-0686.

HEALTH INSURANCE truly affordable rates! We have saved many Mississippi families a hundred plus per month. What will we save you? Call toll free today (877) 232-0686. E.F.

CHURCH IS SEEKING PERSON TO THE WISTFUL LAND OF HANS FILL THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

Send resume to search committee, RECOVER CHURCH PEWS: let us cover DISABILITY MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: First Baptist Church, 701 South Main or recover your church pews. Free esti-

street level, 2 bedroom/bath. Sleeps COACH FOR SALE. Used in family carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: New plan, 6, family atmosphere, washer/dryer, charter business. Excellent condition, ving seniors hundreds a year! Call furnished with all the extras Please

> Cruisemaster by Georgieboy. Thirty six ft., TOO 27K miles, large slide, always garaged, no FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CROSSETT, smoking, no pets, (870) 460-0538.

service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair,

mates, call Bobby Otts (662) 512-5713. equipped with a gallery in rear with CD player, am/fm radio. For more 1997 CLASS A MOTOR HOME. information please call Ellen at (662) 489-5966 or (662) 419-1000.

ARKANSAS is seeking full-time chil-CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents dren's minister. Send resumes to FBC interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly search committee, 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

> PIANO TUNING: I also repair, buy, sell, refinish and move pianos. Ask about FREE church tunings, 35 years experience. Call Ron for appointment (225) 328-5961.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Look to God for Wisdom Job 28:12-19; 23-28

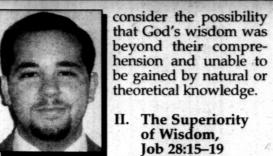
By Kevin Ivy

As sure as we face life we will face suffering and loss. While there is no question that we all will face trying circumstances, some do have questions about where to turn for wisdom in dealing with those circumstances. Where can we turn for wisdom in dealing with the inevitable suffering and loss that comes our way? This search for answers to life's most difficult questions is as old as the human race and has included numerous and various approaches. Many search for answers through reason and even in religions, failing to understand that true wisdom comes only through a relationship with God in Christ. Our human efforts to attain wisdom apart from a personal relationship with God always fall short.

Job's discourse in Job 28 gives us insight concerning true wisdom.

I. The Search for Wisdom Job 28:12-14

Job declared to his friends that true wisdom is hard to find. He contemplated mankind's search for precious things and stated that there is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. Iron comes from the dust, copper comes from ore, and sapphires come from the stones of earth. These things have been searched for and discovered in their respective locations, but where can wisdom be found and how can it be acquired? Even efforts as vigorous and demanding as mining are unable to yield God's wisdom because God's wisdom cannot be found in this world. Job was calling on his friends to



Job clarifies, in his discourse, the superiority of true wisdom to all things considered precious in his day. He reminds his friends that true wisdom cannot be purchased for gold or silver. He implies that it would be impossible to weigh out enough silver to equal the value of wisdom. No amount of costly jewels, fine jewelry, precious stones, or even the gold of Ophir (which was considered by those in Job's day to be the most precious gold) can equal wisdom's value. Wisdom is superior to them all. As we search for wisdom in dealing with suffering and loss, we should value godly wisdom above all earthly possessions, recognizing that it cannot be

bought for any price.

III. The Source of Wisdom, Job 28:23-26

According to Job's discourse, the source of wisdom is God, for God alone understands the way to wisdom. God, being able to see and control the ends of the earth and everything under the heavens is alone capable of supplying true wisdom. Job reminds his friends that God is in control of the wind (v. 25a). The wind, while invisible to man, has been balanced and organized by God. God who formed the wind and who has the power to govern it, is alone qualified to impart wisdom. God is not only in control of the wind, but also the waters (v. 25b). Job declared that God measured out the waters. Though the waters of the ocean are immense, God has adjusted them all with unbounded skill, as if He had dealt them out by measure. God is in control, not only of the winds and the waters, but also the weather (v. 26). He who controls the lightning, directing its path through the skies is more than qualified to explain and fully understand wisdom. God alone is capable

of creating and directing the wind, water, and weather, and He alone is the source of true wisdom.

IV. The Substance of Wisdom, Job 28:27-28

Job finally revealed the substance of wisdom. He declared to his friends that the fear of the Lord is the real substance of wisdom. The Scriptures state that, the fear of the Lord teaches men wisdom (Prov 15:33) and leads to life (Prov 19:23). Proverbs 1:7 proclaims, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." True wisdom for living is found in walking faithfully and fearfully with the Lord. Where can we turn for wisdom in dealing with the inevitable suffering and loss that comes our way? Job expressed that divine wisdom is found, not in having all of our questions answered, but in living obediently in a faith relationship with God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding" (Ps 111:10).

Ivy is a pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Adopted as God's Children" Romans 8:15-27

By Betty Davis

When our three children were very young, we moved to a house with a fenced in back yard. A good place to put a longawaited puppy. We looked in the newspaper for an ad having pupples for sale. We found one and called the family. The puppies were five dollars each, "Take your pick." We were so excited on the way to get a puppy! There were five puppies in the litter; all colors. They were all so cute and wiggly, but our oldest daughter favored the white dog with black spots. The other two children agreed with her choice. We paid the five dollars and "adopted" our first of many family pets. "Spot" became a member of our family, no strings attached! We loved Spot unconditionally and celebrated his birthday as we did every member of our family. He lived a long happy life. Long after he died peacefully, we still

mention to each other that it is May twenty-fifth; Spot's birthday. We are loved in that same way by God. He chose and adopted us

and He loves us unconditionally.

Our Special Status (Romans 8:15–17) \rightarrow This lesson passage is about the privileges related to being adopted as children of God. When we have accepted Christ as our Savior, we have received the Holy Spirit of God in our livés. We haven't received the spirit of fear. "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love and sound judgment" (2 Timothy 1:7 HCSB). We've been "adopted" by God, which gives us feelings of love and affection and all the privileges of one who is a member of the royal family. We have a "Special Status," (v. 15) In Rome, an adopted child had all the rights of a natural-born child. "Abba" is the most per-

can use to refer to his father. It is used three times in the New Testament where Jesus was speaking to His Father. Perhaps, it sounded like, "Daddy, my dear Father." Very close; very personal. What personal name did you use when you spoke to your male

parent? Mine was, "Daddy." Being a child of God, makes us an heir of God; a joint or co-heir with Jesus Christ. How humbling. This involves suffering with and for Him in this life in order to share the glory at a future time.

Our Future Glory (Romans 8:18-23) — When we consider the trials, sadness and suffering we are experiencing now, we cannot even compare it with the glory that is going to be revealed to us at a future time. (v. 18) In verse nineteen, Paul says that all of God's creations are eagerly awaiting for ways He will reveal Himself through nature, history, His actions and most importantly, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

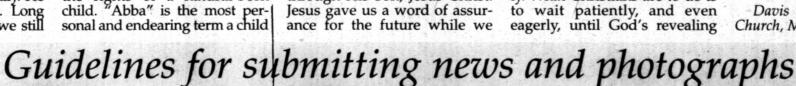
are struggling now: "I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have suffering. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." (John 16:33) All creation cringes, making deep moaning sounds to express the depth of their pain. (v. 22) Paul compares this anguish to a woman who cries out in the birth of a child. The "first fruits" refer to the first and best fruits of the field that were offered to God as the workers anticipated a full, complete harvest. (Leviticus 23:17)

Our Sure Hope (Romans 8:24-25) — Hope is a desire with the expectation of getting what is wanted. To me, it's like trying to sleep on Christmas Eve. Paul explains HOPE Biblically: "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (Colossians 1:5). We can't fully understand how wonderful our future will be. We read descriptions from the Bible, but there are a lot of questions we might have that are answered vaguely. What Christians are to do is

time is right. Galatians 5:5 NIV says, "But by faith through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.

Our Unique Help (Romans 8:26-27) — Prayer is a special time between God and me. But, I find myself doing all the talking. It's easy to praise and ask for favors, but hard to confess my sins. Sometimes, I don't know what I'm trying to say. That's when the Holy Spirit speaks to God for me. He intercedes for me to God what my mouth can't express in words. The Spirit knows me and He's glad to interpret even the thoughts deep in my heart and soul. Verse twenty-seven is clear: "And He that searches the hearts knows what is the Spirit's mind-set, because He makes intercession for all the saints according to the will of God." The Holy Spirit's intercession is encouraging to Christians. We recognize the weakness and the difficulties we have living in the world. I'm glad the Holy Spirit, who knows God's perfect will, can pray for us when we need Him.

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.



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Rogers dies November 15 in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Adrian Rogers, longtime pastor of Bellevue



Rogers

early fathers of the movement that turned the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in a distinctly conservative direction, died November

15 following a battle with cancer and double pneumonia. He was 74 years of age.

Rogers came to Bellevue Church in 1972 and retired this year, and in his 35 years there helped build the church from a membership of 9,000 to more than 29,000. His face and voice were known to millions of believers worldwide thanks to his Love Worth Finding television and radio ministry, which is carried in more than 150 countries.

He was elected SBC president in 1979, 1986, and 1987, and is credited with helping spark what is now referred to as the Conservative Resurgence in

Rogers is survived by his wife Joyce as well as four children and nine grandchildren.

Visitation will be November 17 from 1-6 p.m. in Bellevue Church's sanctuary in Cordova, Tn.; visitation with the family will be 4-6 p.m. in the sanctuary. The funeral service will begin at 6 p.m.

Intelligent design, evolution battles flair

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP) — The Kansas State Board of Education voted 6-4 on November 8 to alter the science standards in public schools in favor of Intelligent Design, further igniting a nationwide battle over how much students are taught about the controversy surrounding the theory of evolution.

Science standards, required by Kansas law to be updated regularly, are used to develop student achievement tests for measuring how well schools are performing in that subject area. Local school boards and administrators determine the curriculum at their schools, but by deciding what students are expected to know for state assessment tests, the state standards will most likely affect what students are taught.

"These are absolutely great science stan-dards. I have no doubt about it, positively no doubt whatsoever," board chairman Steve Abrams of Arkansas City said, according to The Wichita Eagle newspaper.

Conservative board members sought to give students a balanced view of evolution, but critics said they were only pro-moting a "repackaged form of creationism" in alluding to Intelligent Design.

The latest move is part of a years-long struggle in Kansas, which began in 1999 when the Kansas school board voted 6-4 to adopt science standards in which most references to evolution were eliminated. In the next elections, voters ousted those board members who favored the measure and in 2001, a more moderate board voted 7-3 for new science rules restoring evolution's previous place in the standards.

Subsequent elections allowed conservatives to regain the majority on the board, and the new leaders have now voted to change the standards once again, this time opening the way for ideas such as intelligent design and creationism.

Evolution supporters from all over the country protested the board's move long before it happened, saying Intelligent Design cannot be evaluated by science and should have no part in a science education.

Less than two weeks before the vote, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Teachers Association announced that they would not grant Kansas permission to use their science curriculum if the proposed draft of the new standards was not altered. The two key groups said the board had overemphasized uncertainties about evolution and failed to make clear that supernatural phenomena have no place in science, according to a

report in The Washington Post Oct. 28.

The draft "inappropriately singles out evolution as a controversial theory despite the strength of the scientific evidence supporting evolution as an explanation for the diversity of life on Earth and its acceptance

by an overwhelming major-ity of scientists," the groups said in a joint statement.

When the same issue arose in 1999, the groups also withheld copyright permission for the science materials Kansas sought to use that year. This time, board members approved the standards with a caveat directing a copyright lawyer to remove direct references to the groups' materials. The caveat was necessary because the names appear on nearly every page of the 100-page document and could not be removed in time for the scheduled vote.

with Officials the National Academy Sciences and the National **Teachers** Science Association said the new standards "will put the students of Kansas at a competitive disadvantage as they take their place in the world." Other critics of the standards said there is no significant controversy over evolution and evidence ranging from the fields of paleontology to molecular biology shows all life on Earth originated from a sin-

The board, except for two Republicans and two Democrats who objected to the standards, said high school students should be told that aspects of the widely accepted evolutionary theory are controversial and there is a "lack of adequate natural explanations for the genetic code."

gle simple life-form, The Post noted.

Observers say the Kansas board of education drama is bound to continue as four of the six board members who voted yes will face re-election next year and so far three of them will run against an opposing candidate.

"If this issue can be resolved by voting these people out in the next elections, the standards will never get in place enough to make a court case worthwhile. They'll be lame ducks," Jack Krebs, vice president of Kansas Citizens for Science, told The Post.

Even so, the latest vote puts Kansas at the forefront of a contentious nationwide debate. Authorities in Pennsylvania and Georgia are arguing similar evolution-related cases, and in August President Bush said he believes students ought to be taught "both sides" of the argument in public schools.

Meanwhile, Supporters Pennsylvania school district's policy to

make high school science students aware of Intelligent Design say they will not be dis-suaded by a school board election that swept candidates into office who ran on a platform opposed to the policy.

All eight seats on the nine-member Dover Area School Board that were up for election on November 8 were narrowly won by candidates affiliated with the Citizens Actively Reviewing Educational Strategies (CARES). The organization's platform calls for removing Intelligent Design from the district's science curriculum.

The school district is a defendant in a federal trial over its policy to inform ninth-grade science students about the existence of Intelligent Design. Testimony in the case ended in early November. U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III is expected to issue a ruling by early January.

One of the winners in the board election, Bryan Rehm, is a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the school district. Last year he and 10 other parents, facilitated by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, sued the district. The plaintiffs alleged that exposing the students to Intelligent Design was putting religion in the classroom.

Unofficial election results showed that just 288 votes separated the first- and lastplace finishers among all 16 candidates, with the top eight vote-getters garnering seats on the board. One of the eight incumbents unseated, David Napieskie, for example, was ousted by just 26 votes.
"When the other side had the backing

the ACLU and the teachers union," a difficult battle was at hand, said Martha Cashman, whose husband James lost his board seat by just a few votes. "They promised to give the teachers raises. We really needed more community support. You needed a lot more grassroots action in order for us to stop them."

Opponents of the Intelligent Design policy say the election is a repudiation of the district's policy. They contend that, if anywhere, the concept should be taught only in non-mandatory or religion courses.

